

SITUATION REPORT NO. 29

INCIDENT NO. 2000-016

DATE: September 7, 2000

TIME: 4:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Flooding, ground saturation and storms.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: A series of warm and cold fronts triggered showers and thunderstorm activity across the state last week, compounding moisture-related problems. Devils Lake rose slightly on September 4 and is now at 1,446.2 feet, close to the level it has maintained throughout summer. The National Weather Service (NWS) recorded 5.67 inches of rain in Minnewaukan and 4.74 inches in Webster during August 28 through September 7.

In Nelson County, high wind gusts on September 5 caused damages in the city of Lakota. Tree limbs measuring up to eight inches in diameter were broken. Damage to the Cargill Elevator Seed building required officials to block off a street. A Nelson County Sheriff's Office squad car was damaged by high winds while traveling east on U.S. Highway 2.

During the past week, cool, wet conditions in all but the southwest and south central parts of the state raised concerns about grain quality, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. Excessive wet weather caused sprout damage in small grains and may cause delays in harvesting. In southwest North Dakota, hot, dry conditions continue depleting stockwater supplies and drying pastures and ranges, heightening the potential for wildfires.

On August 26, high winds caused severe damage and destroyed crops in Ward County. The County U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) emergency board placed losses at 30 to 50 percent for 214,000 acres of wheat, durum, barley, oats, flax, sunflowers, canola and alfalfa.

4. RESOURCES:
LOCAL: No change from previous reports.
STATE: No change from previous reports.
FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The State Hazard Mitigation Team will meet September 15 to review and prioritize 30 applications totaling over \$30 million for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds. Based on a statutory allocation equating to 15 percent of federal grant monies provided in other Stafford Act assistance programs, HMGP funds are made available through FEMA-1334-DR-ND. After these applications are prioritized for available HMGP funding, the North Dakota Interagency Team will meet this fall to discuss leveraging other sources of funding for remaining applications.

State and federal officials have opened a satellite Disaster Field Office (DFO) in Devils Lake as a result of storm damages that occurred in the area on August 11-12. A recent amendment to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-State Agreement extended the incident period to August 12, 2000.

Community Relations staff members have been meeting with residents and officials in disaster-impacted counties to discuss the recent extension of the period and assistance available through the disaster declaration.

As of September 7, Job Service North Dakota received 5,354 claims and paid \$3,776,086 in Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits to farmers, ranchers, farm workers, migrant workers and other self-employed individuals who have lost income because of disaster conditions.

The Public Assistance Program has approved 145 eligible requests for public assistance from local governments, state agencies and private non-profit organizations. As of September 7, more than \$1.9 million has been paid to applicants.

As of September 6, a total of 8,305 North Dakotans had registered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Teleregistration Center for individual assistance programs.

- The Disaster Housing Program has received 6,953 applications. To date, FEMA has paid more than \$11.3 million in housing benefits and completed 7,174 home inspections. More than \$1.5 million in housing benefits has been designated for mitigation measures to prevent or minimize future flooding. These measures include installation of drain plugs and backwater valves, elevating appliances, anchoring mobile homes, replacing sump pumps and repairing and relocating electrical panels.
- The Individual and Family Grant Program, administered by North Dakota Emergency Management, has received 2,911 applications and had approved more than \$2.3 million in benefits.
- The Small Business Administration (SBA) has issued 6,766 applications to disaster victims and has administered more than \$9.1 million in loans.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: FEMA has developed a web page with cleanup and recovery information. The page is located at: <http://www.fema.gov/reg-viii/floods.htm>

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is:
<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director